

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 863

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 3688

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SW

SUBJECT: NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

SUMMARY: STOCKHOLM REACTION TO NOBEL PEACE PRIZE
ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MIXED BUT ON WHOLE RATHER COOL
TOWARD DR. KISSINGER. UNITED FNL GROUPS PLANNING
DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CHOICE OF DR KISSINGER. GOS HAS
NOT MADE ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT AT ALL. ALTHOUGH A
NUMBER OF PEACE PRIZE RECIPIENTS HAVE IN PAST BEEN
INVITED TO STOCKHOLM FOLLOWING OSLO CEREMONY, IT NOW
APPEARS UNLIKELY DR KISSINGER WILL BE INVITED. END SUMMARY.

1. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION TODAY, BARON STIG RAMEL,
DIRECTOR OF NOBEL FOUNDATION, TOLD ME THAT HE WAS "VERY
HAPPY" THAT DR KISSINGER WAS NAMED A CO-RECIPIENT OF
1973 PEACE PRIZE. HE SAID THAT HE WAS SPEAKING IN A
PERSONAL CAPACITY SINCE FOUNDATION MEMBERS WERE NOT
SUPPOSED TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON NOBEL DECISIONS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY ABOUT NORMAL PRACTICE WITH
RESPECT TO PEACE PRIZE RECIPENTS, RAMEL SAID THAT
PEACE PRIZE AWARD CEREMONY IS OF COURSE HELD IN OSLO
ON DECEMBER 10, AT SAME TIME CEREMONY IS HELD IN
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STOCKHOLM FOR OTHER NOBEL LAUREATES. NOBEL FOUNDATION

NEVER INVITES PEACE PRIZE RECIPIENTS TO STOCKHOLM, PRIMARILY BECAUSE PEACE PRIZE OPERATION IS A NORWEGIAN SHOW AND NORWEGIANS WANT TO KEEP RECIPIENTS HERE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, IN THE PAST, SOME PEACE PRIZE RECIPIENTS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO COME TO STOCKHOLM BY THE STORKYRKOFORSOMLINGA (PARISH OF STOCKHOLM CATHEDRAL) AND MOST OF THOSE INVITED HAVE ACCEPTED. WHEN THEY ACCEPT, NOBEL FOUNDATION THEN ARRANGES FOR THEM TO BE INVITED TO DINNER GIVEN BY SWEDISH KING ON DECEMBER 11. THIS HAS CAUSED PROBLEMS AT TIMES SINCE CITY OF OSLO GIVES LUNCHEON ON DECEMBER 11 FOR PEACE PRIZE WINNERS AND A QUICK TRIP MUST THEN BE MADE IN ORDER TO REACH STOCKHOLM IN TIME FOR KING'S DINNER. FOR EXAMPLE, NORWEGIANS THOUGHT THAT WILLY BRANDT RUSHED THINGS A BIT IN GETTING TO STOCKHOLM TWO YEARS AGO.

3. RAMEL NOTED THAT WILLY BRANDT, LINUS PAULING, AND MARTIN LUTHER KING WERE INVITED TO STOCKHOLM BY THE CATHEDRAL. RAMEL ADDED THAT IT WAS "FASCINATING TO THINK OF DR KISSINGER AND LE DUC THO POSSIBLY PREACHING IN STORKYRKA CATHEDRAL."

4. MFA CHIEF OF AMERICA/EUROPE SECTION THYBERG TOLD EMBOFF TODAY THAT IN HIS PERSONAL OPINION IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY THE CATHEDRAL WOULD INVITE DR KISSINGER AND LE DUC THO, SINCE INVITATIONS USUALLY WENT ONLY TO PERSONS WHO WOULD HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH, SUCH AS DR KING, OR TO PERSONS WHO HAVE A SPECIALLY CLOSE RELATION TO SWEDEN SUCH AS BRANDT. HE NOTED THAT DR NORMAN BORLAUG WAS NOT INVITED IN 1970.

5. SWEDISH PUBLIC AND MEDIA REACTION TO PEACE PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MIXED BUT ON WHOLE RATHER NEGATIVE TO DR KISSINGER'S AWARD. WHILE CONSERVATIVE PRESS WAS FAVORABLE, MAJORITY OF SWEDISH NEWSPAPERS WERE CRITICAL. TV COMMENTATOR LAST NIGHT EXPRESSED INCREDULITY THAT NORWEGIANS COULD HAVE MADE SUCH A CHOICE. HEAD OF FNL GROUPS, SARA LIDBOM, WAS EXTREMELY CRITICAL IN STATEMENT OVER SWEDISH RADIO. SHE SAID THAT "IT IS AN INSULT THAT LE DUC THO SHOULD SHARE THE PRIZE WITH A LIAR AND WAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CRIMINAL." SUMMARY OF PRESS REACTIONS CONTAINED IN USIS CURRENT REACTIONS REPORT.

6. PRIME MINISTER PALME HAS SO FAR REFRAINED FROM MAKING ANY COMMENT ON THE PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT AND THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL REACTION. LEADER OF OPPOSITION FALLDIN HAS CAUTIOUSLY COMMENTED THAT CHOICE WAS A SURPRISE AND "IT IS UNCONVENTIONAL TO AWARD PRIZE TO PERSONS WHO RECENTLY

REPRESENTED FIGHTING SIDES IN A CRUEL WAR."

7. UNITED FNL GROUPS HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT DEMONSTRATION WILL BE HELD EVEING OF OCTOBER 17 AT AMERICAN AND NORWEGIAN EMBASSIES TO PROTEST PEACT PRIZE AWARD. POLICE ARE PLANNING USUAL THOROUGH COVERAGE AND WE EXPECT DEMONSTRATION TO BE SMALL AND PEACEFUL.

COMMENT: IN CIRCUMSTANCES WE DOUBT THAT SECRETARY WILL GET INVITATION TO STOCKHOLM, ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT CERTAIN AT MOMENT. IT IS ALSO UNLIKELY THAT LE DUC THO WILL BE INVITED BY CHURCH ORGANIZATION WHICH INVITES PEACE PRIZE RECIPIENTS. LE DUC THO WILL PROBABLY BE INVITED BY SOME LEFTIST GROUPS, BUT IF HE ACCEPTS HE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE INCLUDED IN NOBEL DINNER AT PALACE.
DOZIER

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